

# My Plants are Sick! Now What??

Perhaps you're a seasoned hydroponics expert or maybe you've just commissioned your first DWC system and are learning on the fly. In either case, plant disease will be an inevitable part of your career as a professional grower.

So, you suspect you've got a rampant disease in your grow house. Let's talk about what steps you can take to knock back the microbial pests, improve plant health and prevent future outbreaks.



## Think Like a Detective

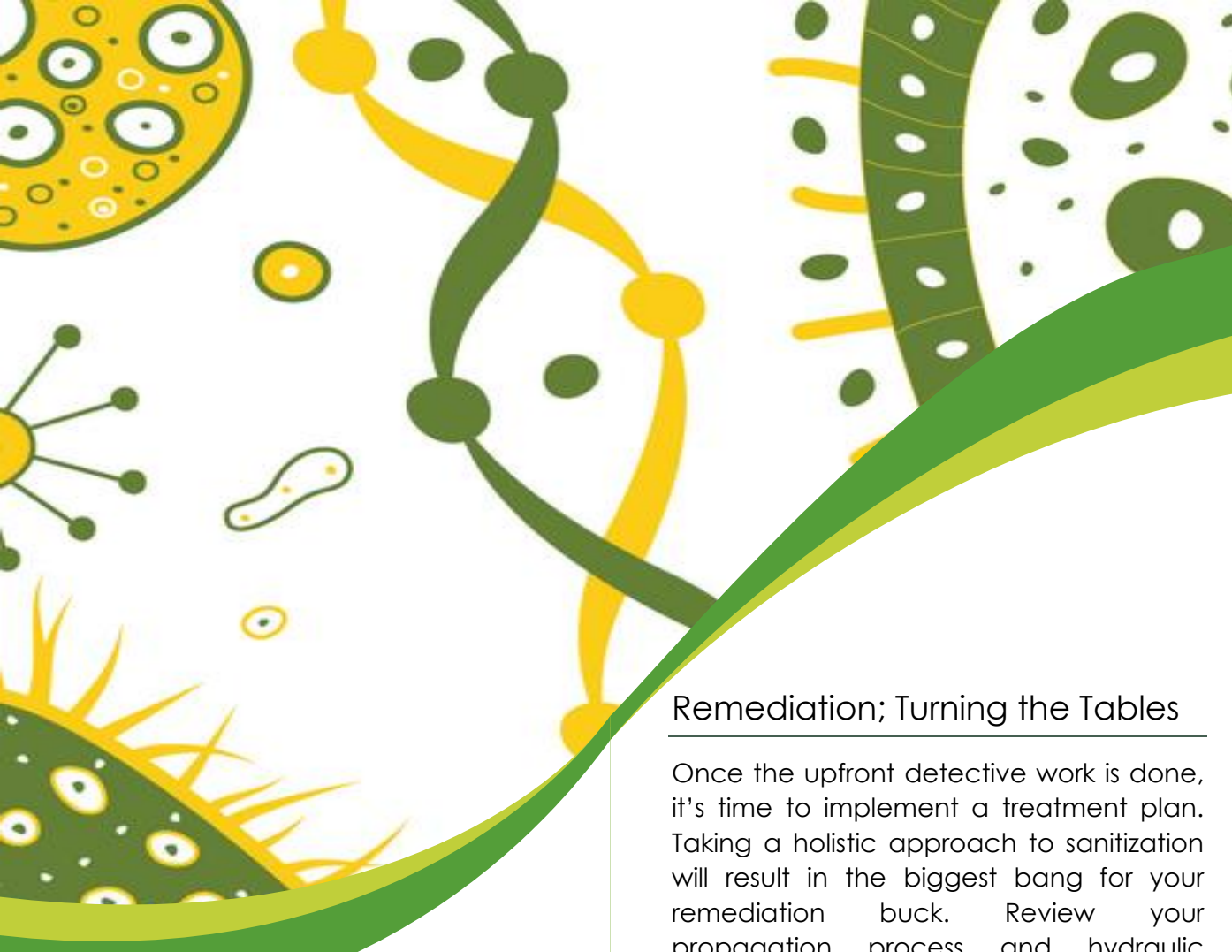
Everyone likes a good detective story, and when you arrive at your grow to find dead and dying plants, you've just taken a lead role in a story of your own. Instead of masked intruders and armed thugs, you're tasked with uncovering a microscopic threat, and time is of the essence. Just like the storied detectives, your job is to identify the perpetrators, find out how they entered your facility, where are they hiding and what can you do flush them out.

Modern analytics has made microbial identification more efficient and accurate than ever before. Collect samples tracing your production process from start to finish to learn more on how the microbes entered your facility and where is their stronghold. Once identified, a strategic remediation plan can be made.

## Science Brief

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### Remediation; Turning the Tables

Once the upfront detective work is done, it's time to implement a treatment plan. Taking a holistic approach to sanitization will result in the biggest bang for your remediation buck. Review your propagation process and hydraulic network. Identify "dead zones" where microbes might proliferate and address them accordingly. Based on the identity of microbe(s), different treatment types will be more effective than others. For example, some microbe's produce an enzyme called catalase that breaks down hydrogen peroxide making it a less efficient biocide. It is also important to consider any potential phytotoxic effects that may carry over to your already stressed crop.

### "An Ounce of Prevention..."

Despite best efforts, certain diseases cannot be remedied once past a certain stage. It is best to take a proactive approach to microbial management. Include ongoing water treatment to your existing IPM program. Evaluate and optimize your biosecurity measures. Introduce aseptic techniques to your propagation and cloning methods. Regularly sample and monitor your system to track changes, identify trends and stay on top of your healthy hydro system.

### Find the Right Partner

There are numerous water treatment companies on the market, but not all are created equal. [Silver Bullet Water Treatment](#) has a proven track record of pathogen remediation and biological control. Coupled with the analytical insights provided by [Rimrock Analytical](#), you'll have all the right tools and expert assistance to stay at the top of your grow game! Contact us today to learn more.

